

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 8, 16 and 23 without prejudice. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-22 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended herein. No new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claims 8, 16 and 23, which have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating their limitations in their respective base claims.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wohl et al. ("Wohl;" U.S. Patent No. 6,950,974).

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of, respectively, Claims 8, 16 and 23, which were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Claims 1, 9 and 17 are allowable. By virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim, Claims 2-7, 10-15 and 18-22 are also allowable. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot at this time.

Conclusions

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-22 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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